

**ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
020533.0330 (2001P21478US)**

**PATENT APP. SERIAL NO.
09/705,562**

CLAIMS:

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A method for datagram staggering in a communication system, comprising:

receiving samples of a first input signal and a second input signal, the first input signal corresponding to a first communication device, the second input signal corresponding to a second communication device;

generating one of a first plurality of datagrams containing at least a portion of the samples of the first input signal at or near a time when a first threshold number of samples of the first input signal are received; and

generating a second datagram containing at least a portion of the samples of the second input signal at or near a time when a second threshold number of samples of the second input signal are received, the second datagram is staggered from each of the first plurality of datagrams such that the second datagram is ready for communication at a different time than any of the first plurality of datagrams, wherein generating the second datagram comprises:

determining a first value for the second threshold number of samples;

receiving a number of samples of the second input signal, the number of samples approximately equal to the first value of the second threshold number;

discarding the received samples; and

determining a second value for the second threshold number of samples.

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43. (Previously Presented) A system for datagram staggering in a communication system, comprising:

at least one computer readable medium; and

software encoded on the computer readable medium, the software operable when executed to:

receive samples of a first input signal and a second input signal, the first input signal corresponding to a first communication device, the second input signal corresponding to a second communication device;

generate one of a first plurality of datagrams containing at least a portion of the samples of the first input signal at or near a time when a first threshold number of samples of the first input signal are received; and

generate a second datagram containing at least a portion of the samples of the second input signal at or near a time when a second threshold number of samples of the second input signal are received, the second datagram is staggered from each of the first plurality of datagrams such that the second datagram is ready for communication at a different time than any of the first plurality of datagrams, wherein the software generates the second datagram by:

determining a first value for the second threshold number of samples;

receiving a number of samples of the second input signal, the number of samples approximately equal to the first value of the second threshold number;

discarding the received samples; and

determining a second value for the second threshold number of samples.

44. (Previously Presented) A modem, comprising:

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a memory operable to receive and store at least a portion of samples of a first input signal and a second input signal, the first input signal corresponding to a first communication device, the second input signal corresponding to a second communication device; and

a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable to:

- receive the samples from the memory;

- generate one of a first plurality of datagrams containing at least a portion of the samples of the first input signal at or near a time when a first threshold number of samples of the first input signal are received; and

- generate a second datagram containing at least a portion of the samples of the second input signal at or near a time when a second threshold number of samples of the second input signal are received; the second datagram is staggered from each of the first plurality of datagrams such that the second datagram is ready for communication at a different time than any of the first plurality of datagrams, wherein the processor generates the second datagram by:

 - determining a first value for the second threshold number of samples;

 - receiving a number of samples of the second input signal, the number of samples approximately equal to the first value of the second threshold number;

 - discarding the received samples; and

 - determining a second value for the second threshold number of samples.